

Town of Rowe – FY2012
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Wednesday, February 8, 2012 – 7:00pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm.

Present: Chairman Noel Abbott; Selectmen Paul McLatchy III and Robert Clancy

School Payphone: Ms. Miller presented a memo to the School Committee informing them of the Selectboard's decision on January 18th to continue to pay for the school payphone thru April 30, 2012. This will give them time to make other arrangements for phone availability on school grounds. The Selectboard approved the memo and asked that Ms. Miller forward it to SchCom Chair Bill Loomis.

Packet from Town Treasurer: Jodi Brown handed to Chair Abbott a packet from Treasurer Heidi Cousineau stating that the packet was for the Selectboard only.

Interim Revaluation: Assessors Chair Rick Williams called into the meeting from Chicago to inform the Selectboard that there may be a need to have an interim revaluation because two of the utilities in town are taking exception to their FY2012 revaluation reports. Both TransCanada and Brookfield Power have filed abatement applications. Mr. Williams stated that the town's consultant is standing by his appraisals, and is willing to defend them with the Appellate Tax Board. Ultimately, if the town were to lose, the town would need to pay back the utilities \$100-150K.

Park FY2013 Budget: Ms. Fuller stated that the only wage increase for FY2013 is the 3.6% COLA for the Park Ranger. Operations/Maintenance is increasing 2.42%. Two items planned for FY13 will be 1) relocating the old lavatory structure to an area adjacent to the pavilion to be used for equipment storage (oars, life vests, etc.), and 2) increasing the height of the garage door on the headquarters building. The area where the old lavatory was located will be graded and planted with spruce, etc. The only CIP item being requested for FY2013 is the new mower for \$3,478. The replacement of the play structure is being moved to FY2014, and a new estimate is being obtained. Two footbridges need replacement in FY2013...the one over Potter Brook that was taken out by hurricane Irene, and the one below Pelham Lake Dam that was taken out by a fallen tree two years ago. It is planned to replace with a 40' span at cost of \$22,200 and 60' span at cost of respectively. Drawings for these bridges were distributed. Ms. Miller will check to see if our insurance company will cover the Pelham Brook bridge; however, there are no pictures of the damage, the old bridge has been removed, and it is two years since the event. It is doubtful it will be covered. The Potter Brook Bridge cost of \$22,200 will be reimbursed 75% by FEMA.

Library FY2013 Budget: Library Trustees Chair Evie Dandeneau joined the meeting to discuss the Library budget requests.

- **Pay Increases:** Employees are being put in for the 3.6% COLA, but a specific 15.0% increase has been put in for the custodian (from \$12.18/hr to \$14.00/hr).
- **Operations/Maintenance/Equipment:** A computer is replaced every year, so they're requesting another \$2K for this. It was noted that \$2,000 for the computer equipment was missing from the overall budget worksheet. It will be corrected. Chair Dandeneau was requested to provide a breakout of the internet costs in the CWMars charges.
- **Lavatory Project:** Contractor Chris Morano has not been able to get a plumber. State code says that we have to have two bathrooms. Variance to this needs approval of plumbing inspector and local BOH. Ellen Miller will check with FCCIP on process.

Board of Health: BOH members David Cousineau, Ann Foshay and Jodi Brown joined the meeting. The BOH was asked why there was such an excess of funds in their budget, which was used to construct the new shed. Chair Cousineau stated that three years ago they ran out of funds. The following year they appropriated more than they needed, which apparently was not reduced for the following year. That is why they built the shed.

- **Nurse's Hours:** Ann Foshay stated that had the BOH known that increasing the nurse's hours to 24 hours per week would equate to so much benefit time off that they would have capped her hours at 19.5 per week for FY12. Her calculations revealed that with the increase to 24 hours per week and the benefit time off nets only 8 additional hours per year, at a considerable cost, and she states it just does not make sense financially. The Selectman at the time had voted for the 19.5 hours per week, but the BOH presented a petition to increase it to 24 hours per week, which subsequently passed at town meeting. Ms. Foshay now states they were ignorant at the time, but now feels there is the opportunity to right this in the FY13 budget. The two other BOH members differed with Ms. Foshay, and support the 24 hrs/wk. Chair Abbott asked that the BOH members lay out in writing the reasons to keep the 24 hours and the reasons not to keep the 24 hours.
- **Transfer Station:** Chair Cousineau stated that hauling charges are increasing in FY13.
- **Vaccine Revolving Fund:** The BOH requested that the vaccine revolving fund be continued in FY2013.

Cemetery Commission: Level funded for FY2013 per Jim Taylor.

DPW: Supt. Jim Taylor was present to discuss his FY2013 budget requests:

- **Wages/Benefit Time:** Requesting a 4.0% increase for his crew (not including himself). He feels the crew has done an outstanding job this year, especially with the Irene repair work. BOS will discuss this at a subsequent meeting. Also requested that sick leave policy be changed to be in line with the school policy which accrues up to 182 sick days and has a buy-back provision. The BOS was in favor of this change last year, but Selectman Loomis was going to verify the information before they took their vote. Jim never heard back. He is requesting again that the policy be changed.
- **Road Maintenance/Reclamation:** This fund was doubled for FY12, and Jim is asking for level funding for FY13. Selectman McLatchy stated that the doubling was to be for one year only. Jim stated that costs for product have skyrocketed over the years; i.e., used to pay \$6/ton for gravel...it's now \$23/ton. Asphalt prices high because of oil prices. To save costs Jim plans to chip seal (oil & stone) Monroe Hill and Ford Hill Roads next year, rather than pave with bituminous asphalt. He can only get half as much done as he used to with the same amount of funds, and the longer you put off keeping the roads up, the costlier it becomes. Selectman Clancy supported the budget request. Selectman McLatchy stated he thinks we are spoiled. Chair Abbott stated that there are indirect costs to not keeping the roads up...wear and tear on peoples' cars.
- **Full Depth Reclamation:** It was discussed that this should perhaps have its own capital stabilization fund, funded with \$50K per year. Jim felt that a full depth reclamation on each road should take place every 40 years or so.
- **Road Spreadsheet:** Supt. Taylor will email the draft spreadsheet to the BOS.
- **1998 Mack Truck:** In FY13 CIP for replacement. The 1998 Mack will be the new "extra" truck, and the current "extra" truck...the 1986 Mack...will become surplus.
- **Oil Furnace:** The furnace is just about 50 years old (installed in 1964). There is talk about replacing this with a pellet boiler, or that we may become at GARN demonstration project. Undecided at this time.
- **CIP Radio Upgrade:** Jim stated that the \$15,300 in the CIP for radio replacement is not needed. Only one new radio needed.

Police: Chief Henry Dandeneau joined the meeting to discuss his FY13 budget.

- **Third Officer:** He is requesting that a third officer...Melissa Salls...be appointed. This officer will backfill when the other two officers are not available. She would probably work one (1) four-hour shift per month. He stated he would forego his pay raise next year for this third officer. If the third officer is not brought on, he would like his pay raise. Selectman McLatchy stated that if a third officer is brought on he is not feel the pay rate should be the same as the rate for the current officers who have been on board many years. Chief Dandeneau stated that Melissa Salls is an experienced officer. Chief Dandeneau asked that the BOS inform him which way they want to go on the new officer.

- **Police Phone at His Residence:** Chair Abbott asked if it was necessary to have a separate line—with a separate monthly charge—at his home. Chief Dandeneau stated that if he is sick he will not answer his personal phone, but he will answer the police phone (339-0139). At the request of Chair Abbott he agreed to publish this number in the next *Goal Post*.
- **Equipment Budget:** Ammo, cuffs.
- **Training:** Chair Abbott stated that there is a major item missing from his FY13 budget request...training. Since Chief Dandeneau is retiring July 2013, a succession training plan needs to be put in place (as well as regular ongoing training). Chair Abbott and Chief Dandeneau will meet separately to discuss this.
- **MIRCS/CJIS:** Still not fully implemented. Chief Dandeneau was asked what the ongoing costs for these systems will be. Chief Dandeneau will check and get back to the BOS.

Audit: Chair Abbott was asked when Ms. Sarnelli would be returning to complete her audit. Chair Abbott said he has a call into her.

Adjourn: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen B. Miller
Town Coordinator

Approved:



Noel R. Abbott, Chairman



Paul McLatchy III

May 30, 2012
Date Approved

Robert J. Clancy

Attachments:

- Agenda
- School Payphone Memo